

REPORT

NATIVE PAPERS IN BENGAL

ON

FOR THE

Week ending the 6th February 1904.

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I.—FOREIGN POLITICS.

THE *Rangalay* [Calcutta] of the 31st January writes:—

The crisis in the Far East.

If war be declared between Russia and Japan, the shock will certainly convulse the whole of Asia. Russia will try to advance upon Herat and bring the Persian Gulf and coast under her power. By this simultaneous attack in two directions, the English attempt to conquer Tibet will be greatly weakened. It is for this reason that the Nepalese Minister, Maharaja Chandra Samser Jung, has been brought to Calcutta by the Government for the purpose of conferring with him. If Russia be supreme in Tibet, it will be impossible for the British Government to keep Nepal under its control, and the Gurkha sepoys will then cease to be loyal. Kashmir also will somewhat incline to the other side. It is because Government understands all this that it is trying to conquer Tibet beforehand. It will not be easy for any foreign Power to invade India by crossing the Himalayas. But if the English be ever defeated beyond the Indian frontier, it will then be impossible to keep the British power in India intact.

The Amir of Kabul is no longer the sovereign of a barbarous people. The Pathans are now armed with all the improved implement of modern warfare and have learned English discipline. Most likely the Amir has communications with Russia. If the Russians push up to Herat and succeed in rousing the Pathans by holding out to them the temptation of Indian territory, no one can foresee how things will turn out.

Russia regards England and Japan as her formidable rivals, and it is her interest to humble both. Under English rule, the conquered one and all are made to feel the sting of subjection, while it is only the powerful and the great and not the masses that are made to feel the power of Russia. However helpless and humbled a people may be, the desire to change the yoke if a suitable opportunity presents itself, is irresistible. The possibility of such an opportunity is indicative of danger.

If Japan wins in the coming contest, it does not bode good to European nations. Yet England must be friend Japan, for England is bound to oppose Russia. In a short time the whole world will be entangled in a net, and then the death-struggle will come.

RANGALAY,
Jan. 31st, 1904.

II.—HOME ADMINISTRATION.

(a)—Police.

2. We are glad to learn, says the *Suhrid* [Noakhali] of the 14th January,

A contradiction.

that daroga Mahabhat Ulla, of Noakhali town, did not actually instigate his servant in the case reported before (see Report on Native Papers of the 16th January para. 1). He was ready to dismiss the man when he came to know of his misconduct. The daroga is certainly to be praised for this.

SUHRID,
Jan. 14th, 1904.

3. The *Suhrid* [Noakhali] of the 24th January writes that on the 15th

A case of outrage upon a female.

November last, at 11 P.M., certain bad characters forcibly carried away a young Hindu widow named Saudamini, daughter of Pitambar De, of Lakshmipur village, from her house and committed outrage upon her. The village chaukidar and dafadar were informed of the occurrence.

SUHRID
Jan. 24th, 1904.

4. The *Medini Bandhav* [Midnapore] of the 27th January publishes

Dacoities in the Midnapore district.

accounts of the following cases of dacoity under the heading "Dacoities in Midnapore. Frequent occurrence of dacoity. Anarchy in the villages under the Narayangarh and Khargapur thanas. The inhabitants in great panic, fear, and alarm":—

MEDINI BANDHAV,
Jan. 27th, 1904.

(1) On the night of the 20th December last, dacoities were committed in the houses of Labu Das, Srinath Dalai, and Gopal Ojha, in the Bhatpukharia village, and of Saday Swarnakar in the Khelahr village under the Khargapur thana. The dacoits were armed with swords and *lathis* and had torches with them.

(2) On the night of the 28th December last, dacoities were committed in the houses of Chandra Mohan Misri, Kanailal Datta, late Kamal Kar, and Silu

Mayra in the Samalpur bazar under the Khargapur thana. The dacoits were 30 or 40 in number and bore weapons and torches. Violence was committed upon persons.

(3) On the night of the 11th January last, a dacoity was committed in the house of Babu Indra Narayan De in the Ambalpur village under the Khargapur thana. It was a great dacoity.

(4) On the 14th January last, a dacoity was committed in the house of Saday Chandra Tearhi in the Tala village under the Narayangarh thana.

(5) On the 15th January last a dacoity was committed in the house of Banamali Bhanja under the Narayangarh thana.

(6) On the 19th January last a dacoity was committed in the house of Bhola Nath Metyar, in the Asnabani village, under the Narayangarh thana.

(7) On the 21st January, a fearful dacoity was committed in the house of Narahari Mandal, in the same Asnabani village. A free fight ensued between the villagers and the dacoits in the presence of Babu Lal Mohan Guha, Inspector of Police. Three of the dacoits were wounded, but were carried off by their companions.

The rendezvous of the dacoits is the Mayurpakha jungle, a mile from the Kehghai river and $1\frac{1}{2}$ mile west of the Asnabani village.

The inhabitants of this part of the country live in constant fear for their lives and properties. Police officers out on investigation are only feasting themselves at the cost of those poor people in whose houses dacoities have been committed, and looking at the fun. Many people think that so long as Babu Gokul Chandra Chakrabarti will remain Inspector of the Narayangarh thana the dacoits will not be detected. Babu Lal Mohan is a new man. An able and experienced Inspector should be appointed in the thana.

The well-to-do inhabitants of the Narayangarh and Khargapur thanas are leaving their homes to live in Midnapore town. Great is the panic that prevails. The attention of the District Magistrate is drawn to the matter.

SRI SRI VISHNU
PRIYA-O-
ANANDA BAZAR
PATRIKA,
Jan. 27th, 1904.

5. The *Sri Sri Vishnu Priya-o-Ananda Bazar Patrika* [Calcutta] of the 27th January reports three cases of river-dacoity near Kotrangchar, Serampore, and Telinipara,

respectively, on boats carrying jute from Seoraphuli to Sulkea. In the first case money and clothes were taken away, and in the other two cases bales of jute were carried away. What is the good of maintaining a large police force if it is unable to protect people from these robberies? Does the police then exist only to oppress the innocent and inoffensive folks who vend petty articles or commit nuisance on the road-side?

HOWRAH HITAIISHI,
Jan. 30th, 1904.

6. The *Howrah Hitaiishi* [Howrah] of the 30th January draws the attention of the Magistrate of Howrah to the grog shop and the toddy shop on the road from the Baluhati station on the Howrah-Amta Railway to Baluhati

A grog and a toddy shop in the Howrah District.

village in the Howrah district. The shops are a rendezvous of *budmashes* who often commit oppression on wayfarers. On the 15th January last, Babu Sasi Bhusan Mukharji, a resident of the village, was attacked by the *budmashes* on his way home from the railway station, but was rescued by some fellow-wayfarers.

HOWRAH HITAIISHI.

7. The same paper draws attention to the prevalence of theft in Balia, Baliagarh and other villages within the jurisdiction of the Jugatballabhpur thana in the Howrah district, and requests the District Magistrate of Howrah to rouse the local police to a sense of its duty.

Prevalence of theft in some villages in the Howrah district.

BANGAVASI,
Jan. 30th, 1904.

8. The *Bangavasi* [Calcutta] of the 30th January says that on the 25th idem a fearful dacoity was committed in the house of an employé of Babu Ram Narayan Sarkar, zamindar of Vishnupur, 24-Parganas. The main

A case of dacoity in the 24-Parganas.

entrance into the house was forced open, its inmates were beaten, and property to the value of Rs. 5,000 in cash and ornaments was carried off. Dacoity has greatly increased in Midnapore, Burdwan, Hooghly, the 24-Parganas and other districts. What is the cause of this? Does it not give evidence of the inefficiency of the police?

9. The *Navayug* [Calcutta] of the 30th January writes that Mr. Lambert, late Police Commissioner of Calcutta, suppressed the publication of two obscene books entitled "Kamratna" and "Sambhoga Ratnakar." But the evil has again made its appearance. A printed advertisement, with the words "Supplement to the *Basumati*, 11th Pous, Saturday, 1310," on it, gives notice of a book entitled "Sachitra Sambhoga Ratnakar ba Nariveda." This book is full of most obscene poems and pictures. The address given is "J. B. P., 35-1, Garanbata Street, Calcutta." The Detective Police may find some clue from this address, which may lead to the discovery of the party concerned in this matter.

NAVA YUG.
Jan. 30th, 1904.

Some years ago was published a pamphlet styled the "Abasar," on which was written "Sri Upendra Nath Mukhopadhyaya, No. 2, Hari Mohun Bosu's Lane, New Calcutta Press Depository." The name of the Manager was Satis Chandra Mukhopadhyaya. The "Abasar" contained a reference to some obscene books. It may be that the men connected with the "Abasar" are the same people who are the authors of the "Sachitra Sambhoga Ratnakar." The Commissioner of Police will, it is to be hoped, take notice of such extremely obscene publications.

10. The same paper gives the following list of bogus firms in Calcutta:—

NAVA YUG.

Bogus firms in Calcutta. (1) The C. P. Institution at No. 29, Cathedral Mission Lane. On the sign-board is written "No native admitted." This "Institution" resembles in some respects family pension funds. It is believed that one K. K. Ghosh is the Manager. From enquiries it appears that the late Secretary to the Damurhuda Family Provision Association, after being released from jail, has started this "Institution," about which there is no advertisement in any of the Calcutta papers. Its advertisements appear in the Burma and Ceylon papers.

(2) Some one has started a business under the name "Art Syndicate" at No. 2, Champatolla. The Calcutta papers contain no advertisements regarding it. The owner has found many customers in Orissa.

(3) A man has started the "Coronation Agency" somewhere under the jurisdiction of the Bowbazar Post Office. No advertisement about the agency appears in newspapers. Printed post-cards containing advertisements are sent to persons whose names are to be found in Directories. "Tambulbihar" is sold to the public and the present of a pair of shoes is promised by the Agency.

11. The *Rangalay* [Calcutta] of the 31st January writes that the respectability of native shopkeepers giving English names to their firms should be subjected to scrutiny before it is believed in, as, not unfrequently, these English names are used by unscrupulous men to carry on their nefarious practices. The Police Commissioner of Calcutta should make an enquiry as to the allegations of the *Navayug* against the Major Company and other bogus firms. Quacks should not be allowed to advertise and sell patent medicines.

RANGALAY,
Jan. 31st, 1904.

12. A correspondent from Garbetta writes to the *Nihar* [Contai] of the 2nd February that on Tuesday last at midnight, a dacoity was committed in the house of Ramdhan Ray, of village Bandai, seven or eight miles from the Garbetta police-station. The dacoits severely beat the owner of the house and made good their escape with Rs. 1,000 or thereabout. The police could not trace the dacoits. The Police wantonly shot down three pigs belonging to a poor woman named Malati, and cruelly tortured some Puri pilgrims who were passing near the thana.

NIHAR,
Feb. 2nd, 1904

A case of dacoity in the Midnapore district and the conduct of the police.

(b)—Working of the Courts.

13. The *Suhrid* [Noakhali] of the 24th January writes that Babu Hiralal Sen was deputed by the Revenue Board to inspect the local Revaluation Office, and took ten days to complete the inspection work. Hiralal Babu says that the Revaluation Officer, Sudarsan Babu, has no power to dispose of objections. If this is true, then all that Sudarsan Babu has done must go for nothing. In that case, the people will have to suffer a heavy loss, for Rs. 25,000 already spent in the

SUHRID,
Jan. 24th, 1904.

Revaluation work in Noakhali.

work will be thrown away. In revaluation work, it is the people who suffer loss, and Government, instead of suffering any loss, makes a clean profit from the sale of court-fee stamps, etc. The people of Noakhali are anxiously expecting the Board's orders.

HITAVADI,
Jan. 29th, 1904.

14. The *Hitavadi* [Calcutta] of the 29th January writes:—

Increase in the number of sentences of solitary imprisonment and whipping in Calcutta Police Courts.

Solitary imprisonment and whipping are two most barbarous forms of punishment. Unfortunately, however, they find great favour with many Judges in this country. We have repeatedly said that solitary imprisonment is a very severe punishment and should, therefore, be inflicted with the greatest care and judgment. We have also advocated a discontinuance of whipping as a mode of punishment. But our representations have gone for nothing. Executive officers are shewing greater and greater liking for these punishments. From a perusal of the Burma Administration Report for 1902-03 it appears that sentences of solitary imprisonment and whipping have greatly increased in that province. Even in Bengal these forms of punishment are becoming more prevalent. How frightfully their number has increased in the Police Courts in Calcutta will appear from the list of punishments for the last few weeks. Mr. Weston, the Chief Presidency Magistrate, has himself taken up the rattan, and our well-known Maulvi Bazlal Karim is inflicting solitary imprisonment indiscriminately. When such a state of things obtains in the metropolis, it is unnecessary to speak of what prevails in mufassal Courts. How long will such barbarous sentences continue to be passed under the civilized British Government?

HITAVADI.

15. As an example of the evils that result from the union of executive and

Complaint against a subdivisional officer.

judicial functions in the same officer, the same paper describes the irregular and high-handed proceedings of a native Subdivisional Officer as follows:—

During the last rainy season the prices of food-grains having risen very high in many parts of Bengal owing to the failure of the rains, there occurred many cases of theft and dacoity. In one of these cases thirty persons were sent up by the police, of whom four were discharged, eleven were sent to jail for various terms not exceeding one year, and the remaining fifteen received whipping. The Subdivisional Officer did not care to consider that it was not the intention of Government that whipping should be inflicted upon persons belonging to the respectable classes. The rule laid down by Government runs:—

"Whipping should not ordinarily be had recourse to, when the offender holds a respectable position in life, and is only appropriate in the case of criminals of the lowest orders of society."

Among those who received whipping four were Rajputs and two Goalas. Did the Subdivisional Officer think that Goalas and Rajputs belonged to the lowest orders of society?

Another accused person, who also was a Goala, was ordered to receive thirty stripes. All the evidence against this man was, as appears from a copy of the judgment procured by the editor, that he was seen carrying something. As there was a looting of grains, the Subdivisional Officer thought that some one must be punished, and took no pains to ascertain whether the accused was really guilty, whether he belonged to a respectable class, or whether the punishment of whipping might properly be inflicted upon him. Such heartless conduct is possible only in this unfortunate country.

HOWRAH HITAIISHI,
Jan. 30th, 1904.

16. The *Howrah Hitaiishi* [Howrah] of the 30th January complains of

A Sub-Registrar in the Howrah district.

the illegal doings of the Sub-Registrar of Jagatballabhpur in the Howrah district. Though the attention of the authorities was drawn to his conduct once before, he has not yet come to his senses.

(d)—Education.

SRI SRI VISHNU
PRIYA-O-
ANANDA BAZAR
PATRIKA,
Jan. 27th, 1904.

17. The *Sri Sri Vishnu Priyo-o-Ananda Bazar Patrika* [Calcutta] of the

The management of the Sanskrit College.

27th January says that various complaints are reaching it regarding the management of the Sanskrit College. A correspondent writing to it

from Murshidabad complains that it does not appear as if the Sanskrit College were under Government management, that the conduct or control of the Titles Examinations is not vested in any Committee, so that success or failure in them would seem to depend upon the sole will of the Principal, and that the prayer of many famous pandits for the Chair of Nyaya was rejected without any valid reason. Some of these applicants, it is true, were rather advanced in years. But the same objection applies to the man selected for that chair, who cannot be less than 50 years old. As for the man selected for the Chair of Vedanta, he is not an M. A. in Sanskrit, but has only passed, from the Sanskrit College, the Titles Examination in Vedanta with credit. But success in that examination nowadays is no sure evidence of merit. The editor agrees with the correspondent in thinking that the conduct and control of the examination should be vested in a Committee. The late experienced Principal, Mahamahopadhyaya Maheschandra Nyaya-ratna, used to consult competent people as to the selection of examiners and of questions. As founder of the examination, he had great experience and zeal in the matter. He was, besides, well versed in all branches of learning. But, unfortunately, all these conditions are now wanting. It is hoped that Mr. Pedler will hold an impartial enquiry into these matters.

18. The *Sanjivani* [Calcutta] of the 28th January writes as follows:—

Appointment of inspecting officers from the ranks of teachers and Professors.

Under Mr. Pedler, Inspectors, Assistant Inspectors, and Deputy Inspectors of Schools are being appointed from the ranks of Professors or teachers.

SANJIVANI
Jan. 28th, 1904.

This employment of men accustomed to sedentary work from 2 to 6 hours in the day in performing duties so active as those of an inspecting officer has been, attended with results that were only to be expected. Some of these people have reverted to their former line, while others who stick to their new appointments in consideration of the freedom enjoyed by them in the inspecting line are evincing no great zeal or efficiency. Inspectors like Mr. Hallward must be pronounced utterly incompetent and worthless, when compared with some Inspectors of Schools such as Babus Bhudev Mukharji, Radhikaprasanna Mukharji, Dina Nath Sen, Radhanath Roy, Mathuranath Chatterjee, and Mr. Abdul Karim, who had or have risen to that dignity from the lowest post in the inspecting line. Some of the Inspectors had attained such experience of all educational matters that Sir Alfred Croft would not venture to introduce any important reform without consulting them. Mr. Pedler is not well acquainted himself with the condition of the country, and the Inspectors under him are still more ignorant of that condition. Babu Radhikaprasanna Mukharji was on the Education Committee which recommended the present scheme of vernacular education, and we have never questioned the excellence of the scheme itself; and it is our firm belief that, in introducing that scheme so rashly and prematurely, Mr. Pedler failed to consult any educational officer of experience. But even in the enforcement of the new scheme the new class of Inspectors showed themselves to great disadvantage as compared with the old class. No exceptions could be taken to the lists of text-books that were published by Babus Radhanath Roy and Mathuranath Chatterjee, while that issued by the Inspector of the Presidency Division gave great scandal and betokened great inexperience. All personal criticism is distasteful to us. Still we must refer to the proceedings of some of these Professor-Inspectors to show how unfit they are for that office. The Inspector of Schools of the Presidency Division leaves his bed at 9 or 9-30 A.M., and it is doubtful whether he can finish his bath and meal before 2 or 2-30 P.M. If, at that late hour, he goes out to inspect a school he spends almost all the time in the examination of accounts, and when he examines a class or two he asks preposterous questions. He asks even *pathsala* boys to criticise and correct the composition of the text-books they read. As for Mr. Hallward, everybody knows how ridiculous a figure he cut as a Professor in the Dacca, Presidency, and Ravenshaw Colleges. In entrusting the control over so large a number of students, teachers, and inspecting officers to the man who failed to please even a handful of students, Mr. Pedler certainly acted most indiscreetly. Mr. Hallward does not seem to consider the Deputy and Sub-Inspectors of Schools any better than coolies. He lives with his family at Darjeeling and twice only, during the year, namely, in the rains and the cold season, does he descend upon the plains from those celestial heights. His mufassal

inspection means endless trouble and harassment to Deputy and Sub-Inspectors, to Inspecting Pandits and to teachers. He is very particular about his meals and his rest. He must have his morning meal by 9 or 10 A.M., and his evening meal by 8 P.M. To ensure this he takes care to travel with two carts, although he himself never performs any journey except on bicycle, and this even in cases where railway journey is possible. This, of course, secures a larger sum of money in the shape of travelling allowances. One of these carts conveys his cooking apparatus and the other his bedding and breakfast plate. Every day within an hour of his finishing his evening meal at 8 P.M., the cart conveying the cooking apparatus must start on its journey for the next day's destination—always a distance of above 20 miles (for the amount of travelling allowance will otherwise be small), attended by the Deputy and Sub-Inspectors, who have strict order to finish the work of examining the accounts of the school at the next day's destination before Mr. Hallward's arrival, deferring the work of examining the students till he arrives. The *Sahib* himself follows leisurely on his byke the next morning, when he has finished his morning meal at the usual hour. Mr. Hallward is innocent of Bengali, and so, in the case of middle schools, all examination of the students, except in the English text-books, is conducted by the subordinate inspecting officers who report its result to the Inspector. The least remissness on the part of either teachers or inspecting officers makes Mr. Hallward come down upon them furiously. If a student happens to have his body bare or a button of his shirt or coat unfastened, Mr. Hallward exclaims, "Just like a cooly boy," or orders that the boy should be forthwith turned out. The poor Deputy Inspectors and Sub-Inspectors have thus a very hard time of it. These poor men have sometimes just time enough to snatch a hasty evening meal after a journey in the cold and dews of night and a busy day's hard work, and sometimes not. Indeed, the very announcement of Mr. Hallward's descent from Darjeeling fills the whole of Rajshahi with uneasiness. What a contrast to Mr. Pedler's own visits of inspection, which used to fill everybody with joy! Mr. Hallward is proficient in English literature and his transfer from the teaching line was, therefore, injudicious. Indeed, the transfer of officers from one line to the other was condemned by the Education Commission.

The remarks made by us above in regard to the appointment of Inspectors of Schools hold equally good in the case of the appointment of Assistant Inspectors of Schools. There are few officers in the Education Department so able as the late Babus Bireswar Chakravarti and Matilal Maitra, and Brajendra Babu, Kumudbandhu Babu, Ishan Babu, and Fani Babu, officers who rose to that dignity from the rank of Deputy Inspector. There is, at present, a special difficulty in the promotion of Deputy Inspectors to posts of Assistant Inspectors, for while Assistant Inspectors belong to the Provincial Service, Deputy Inspectors belong to the Subordinate Service, and transfer from the latter service to the former is attended with great difficulties. This difficulty may, however, be obviated by fixing the pay of the last grade in the Provincial Service at Rs. 200 instead of Rs. 150 and by promoting all Deputy Inspectors who deserve to be made Assistant Inspectors from the 150-rupee grade in the Subordinate service to the 200-rupee grade in the Provincial Service. As for such of these deserving officers as are already drawing Rs. 200 in the Subordinate Service, they should be promoted to a higher grade in the Provincial Service. Their case will not, however, present much difficulty, for their number is very small. In the same manner, deserving Sub-Inspectors, as we have recommended before, should be made Deputy Inspectors.

Lord Curzon has increased the educational grant for all India by 40 lakhs. For a long time no Governor-General has bestowed such careful attention on the education of the country. It behoves him to see that this increased grant is not wasted by reason of faulty arrangements.

19. A correspondent of the *Hitavadi* [Calcutta] of the 29th January writes as follows:—

A vernacular text-book.

Most of the Bengali books published by Messrs. Macmillan & Co. and appointed as text-books in vernacular schools cause pain and wonder to the teachers who have to teach them. The teachers cannot, indeed, abstain from praising the sense of duty of the learned gentlemen who selected these text-books.

The Science Reader appointed for the Middle Vernacular Scholarship Examination is a strange production as regards its language, its subject matter, its grammar, and its illustrations. An educated man has only to read through the book to see how involved and enigmatic is the language in which it has been written. To point out the mistakes and inaccuracies in the book would take up all the columns of even a broadsheet like the *Hitavadi*.

The illustrations given in the book were evidently prepared for some other purpose and have been inserted anywhere and everywhere in the Science Reader, either from a notion that books for children should contain pictures or with the object of increasing the bulk of the book (see pages 74, 90, 92, 110, 111, 113, 115, 118, 119 and 120).

The subject of fertilisation in the chapter “বীজোৎপত্তি” at page 89 of the Science Reader has been treated in such involved and abstruse language that it will be impossible for boys to gain an insight into the matter discussed in it from what is contained in the book. There are also not only a profusion of grammatical errors, but even the rules of collocation in Bengali have been overlooked.

In the passage “পরাগরেণ গর্ভকোষে পীঠে সংস্কৃত হওয়া একান্ত প্রয়োজন,” the way in which the word “প্রয়োজন” has been used is strange. Here “একান্ত,” an adverb, has been made to qualify “প্রয়োজন,” which is a noun.

In the last line of the above-mentioned page, one comes across the sentence—“এক ফুলের পরাগ অন্য ফুলের গর্ভকোষে পড়িতে পারে; এইরূপ পরাগ সঙ্গমকে পরপরাগ সঙ্গম বলে।” There is nothing in the passage to indicate whether the two flowers referred to by “একফুল” and “অন্য ফুল” are both flowers of the same tree or flowers of the same kind or flowers of different kinds. In the case of creepers like লাউ and কুমড়া, every creeper produces both male and female flowers, but, in the case of trees like the palm, some trees produce only male flowers and others only female flowers. Does the author mean by “পরপরাগ সঙ্গম,” fertilisation of such flowers, or does he mean by it fertilisation of one kind of flower, say, the flower of শশা, by the pollen of the flower of another kind, say, of কুমড়া?

At page 90, the author says “বহু বৃক্ষে পরপরাগ সঙ্গম জনিত বীজ অপেক্ষাকৃত উত্তম হয়, ইত্যাদি.” Does it mean that the seeds produced in a tree by “পরপরাগ সঙ্গম” (cross fertilisation) are better than seeds produced in the same tree by “স্বপরাগ সঙ্গম”? If so, it may be asked if one and the same tree can produce seeds of different kinds.

In lines 8 and 9 of page 91, occurs the passage—“ইহাদের পায় ক্রসের ন্যায় রোম গুলি আছে, তদ্বারা সমস্ত শরীর বাড়িয়া রেণুগুলিকে একত্র করিয়া লালো দিয়া ভিজাইয়া গুটিকা প্রস্তুত করে। এই গুটিকা পরে ধলেতে রাখিয়া বাসাতে উড়িয়া আসে।” Was it proper to use the wrongly-spelt words like “পায়” and “তদ্বারা” in a text-book for the Middle Scholarship Examination or to use four such participials “করিয়া,” “দিয়া,” “ভিজাইয়া,” and “বাড়িয়া” so closely together in one sentence? Again, there is nothing to indicate where the sac referred to in the passage comes from. Does the sac belong to the tree or to the insect, or is it a sac which the insect brings for the purpose from its nest?

The last line of page 92 contains the passage—“বায়ু কর্তৃক পরপরাগ সঙ্গম ঘাস, কদলী প্রভৃতি নানা বৃক্ষে.” This is the first time that the writer of this notice reads of grass and the plantain plant being called ‘trees’ in a book on botany. It is also a question whether plantain can be an example of “পরপরাগ সঙ্গম.” Most people have seen flowers of plantain and know that each plantain flower contains some stamens and a pistil, the pistil being a little longer than the stamens. It is this latter fact, combined with the fact that by nature the flowers of plantain grow with their face downward, which facilitates the fertilisation of the pistil. Is it possible for the agency

of the air to fertilise by “পরপরগ সজম” a flower which grows with its face downward?

It is difficult to realise what lesson the five small paragraphs, headed ‘বায়ুবিহিত পরাগ সজমশালী পুষ্প,’ are intended to teach. One of these paragraphs runs as follows:—“(৪) যথু কিংবা চাকচিক্যশালী ফুল উৎপাদন করিতে হয় না বলিয়া এই নিমিত্ত এইরূপ বৃক্ষের আহৃত খাদ্য সামগ্রীর কোনও অংশ ব্যয়িত হয় না।” What is the meaning of this passage, and with what object has it been inserted? What connection has it with the heading under which it is given? What kind of trees are meant by “এইরূপ বৃক্ষের”? For what does the pronoun “এইরূপ” stand? What again, is the “আহৃত খাদ্য সামগ্রী”? Is it any part of the tree or flower? Wrong collocations and combinations like “হয় না বলিয়া এই নিমিত্ত,” “চাকচিক্যশালী ফুল” are not a few in the book. See, for instance, “কাঠবিড়াল” at page 106 and “বিবাক্ত সাপদের” at page 108.

But it is crying in the wilderness to criticise the language of this book, when the Bengali of Vidyasagar and Akshay Kumar Dutta has been thought unfit for Bengali schoolboys and the Bengali written by Englishmen has been made the medium of instruction in vernacular schools. The truth is that, if books like the Science Reader are to be read in vernacular schools, the study of Bengali grammar ought to be abolished from them. Wrong words and phrases like “বাহ্যিক” “নিজেদের,” “তাপ আধিক্য,” “বার্ষিক বৃক্ষ,” “দৈর্ঘ্যবাহ্যিক,” “কিছা,” “বীজ উৎপাদন” on page 96 and “জীবন্ত” on page 110 ought not to find a place in a schoolbook.

The writer fails to understand the meaning of the illustration at page 90. The illustration conveys no idea of the thing it is intended to convey. The letter-press runs:—“পদ্ম, পাতা ও ফল” (and in some books “ফুল” for “ফল”). Would it not have been better to say “পদ্মের বীজ” and “মৌরীর বীজ” instead of “পদ্মফল” and “মৌরীর ফল,” which latter occurs at page 94? Who can contain one’s laughter on hearing a word like “ধান্য ফল”?

Can anybody say what language is—“বিকলিশাত ওয়াতে” at page 95?

At page 96 occurs the passage “যে সকল বাহ্যিক অবস্থায় বৃক্ষ মরিয়া যায়, সেই সকল অবস্থায় ও অনেক সময় বীজের জীবনীশক্তি থাকে।” This is not the only passage where the particle “ও” stands detached from the word with which it ought to go. At the same page occurs the sentence—“পরে ইহা (দৈর্ঘ্যবাহ্যিক বৃক্ষ) বাড়ে ও আগামী বৎসরের জন্য খাদ্য সংরক্ষণ করিয়া রাখে।” Is not “সঞ্চিত করিয়া” a more correct form than “সংরক্ষণ করিয়া”? What class of trees, again, is meant by “দৈর্ঘ্যবাহ্যিক বৃক্ষ”? Where do these trees store the food for the next year? Do they not require any food in the second year? How are teachers to explain all these to their boys? The form “দৈর্ঘ্যবাহ্যিক” is objectionable. A more correct form would have been “দ্বিবর্ষজীবী”. The plantain plant lives for two years, but does anybody, except the author of the *Science Reader*, know where it secretes the food which it collects in the first year and keeps for the second year of its life?

The author says in lines 6 and 7 of page 97—“তোমাদের স্মরণ রাখা উচিত যে, ব্রহ্মোৎপন্ন প্রচুর বীজরাশির মধ্যে অল্প সংখ্যক মাত্র অঙ্কুরিত হইয়া বৃক্ষে পরিণত হইতে পারে।” Does the author then mean to say that all grains of paddy and pulses do not germinate? From what the author says, it would seem as if the cultivators of some countries use for seed only such grains as germinate and take the trouble of separating them from grains which do not.

In lines 26 and 27 of the same page, the book says:—“কাশ জলে জন্মে।” If the author means *kāsa* grass, the writer never knew it to grow in water.

The passage “পোস্ত ফলের বীজগুলি ফলের নিম্নভাগে আনগাভাবে থাকে। বায়ু কর্তৃক ফলগুলি আন্দোলিত হইলে, উহার কয়েক বৃক্ষ হইতে দূরে নিক্ষিপ্ত হয়।” at line 28 of the same page is not only faulty in point of grammar and language, but

does not properly express what it is intended to mean. The pronoun “উহারা” in the passage can only mean “কলগুলি,” but it is intended to mean “বীজগুলি.”

The writer does not know what trees or plants are meant by “ভট্টাই আপা” and “হাবরা” at page 98.

The matter contained in pages 53 to 57 has been repeated *verbatim* in pages 84 to 86, and the matter in pages 86 to 88 has been reproduced *verbatim* in pages 139 to 142.

20. Referring to the interest which Lord Curzon is taking in the matter of industrial education, the *Bangavasi* [Calcutta] of the 30th January writes as follows:—

Industrial education.

The arrangement, by which Lord Curzon is trying to bring round the misdirected people of the country to their proper spheres of work, is no doubt welcome to us. Any arrangement, in fact, which would have the effect of reducing to some extent, however small, the temptation of English education, and removing the morbid hankering for service, would be sure to meet with their approval. Need we say that the more we see the ordinances of the Sastras followed, in whatsoever form or mode, the more gratified we feel?

But there is one thing to be considered in this connection, and that is the competition of foreign merchants. Who will check the course of that competition? Indian boys may learn arts and produce articles, but then how to sell them?

21. The *Howrah Hitaishi* [Howrah] of the 30th January deplores the present condition of the Calcutta Sanskrit College

The Calcutta Sanskrit College.

as compared with the glorious days it saw under eminent Sanskrit scholars like Cowell, Wilson, Ramkamal, Marshall, Rasamay and Iswar Chandra. Professors like Nimai Chand, Sambhu Nath, Nathu Ram, Tara Nath, Jay Gopal, Bharat, Jay Narayan, Madhu Sudan, Prem Chand and Chandra Kanta are no longer found in the College, and the institution saw the last of its glory under Mahesh Chandra. Whatever other faults people may ascribe to Mahesh Chandra, it is undeniable that he took a sincere interest in the cause of Sanskrit learning and did all in his power to promote it.

(e)—Local Self-Government and Municipal Administration.

22. It is a question now, says the *Sanjivani* [Calcutta] of the 28th January, who will officiate for Mr. Greer, the

Mr. Silk.

Chairman of the Calcutta Corporation, during his absence on leave. Last time Mr. Silk officiated as Chairman. But his intense love of power became a source of great harassment to the public and his subordinates. The flow of bribery, too, continued as before. None therefore would like to see Mr. Silk again placed at the head of the Corporation.

23. The *Hitavadi* [Calcutta] of the 29th January recommends that the present Vice-Chairman of the Calcutta Municipality should be appointed to officiate as

The Chairmanship of the Calcutta Municipality.

Chairman when Mr. Greer goes home on leave. Government seems to be in favour of the appointment of Mr. Silk, the Engineer, as officiating Chairman. Considering how Mr. Silk, when he last acted as Chairman, dissatisfied the rate-payers, he should never again be appointed to officiate as the head of the Corporation.

(f)—Questions affecting the land.

24. The *Barisal Hitaishi* [Barisal] of the 22nd January writes that there is a proposal to transfer the Barisal Survey Office from Barisal to Dacca. There is absolutely no argument in favour of the proposed transfer. The

The proposed transfer of the Barisal Survey Office to Dacca.

inconvenience of the people of Barisal, if the proposal is carried out, will be very great. Moreover, the present Survey Office, which cost Rs. 15,000 for its construction, will become useless, and the construction of a new building will cost another large sum of money. Is not this squandering public money? It is said that Mr. Bedford, the head of the Barisal Survey Office, has an interest in having it transferred to Dacca.

BANGAVASI,
Jan. 30th, 1904.

HOWRAH HITAIISHI,
Jan. 30th, 1904.

SANJIVANI,
Jan. 28th, 1904.

HITAVADI,
Jan. 29th, 1904.

BARISAL HITAIISHI,
Jan. 22nd, 1904.

(g)—Railways and Communications, including Canals and Irrigation.

SUHRID,
Jan. 24th, 1904.

25. The *Suhrid* [Noakhali] of the 24th January complains that passengers from Dacca to Noakhali are detained for 24 hours, and passengers from other places for 12 hours at Luxam. There is no waiting-room either for males or females at that station. This causes great inconvenience to passengers. The railway authorities should provide waiting-rooms and change the timing of trains, so as to remove the present complaint.

A railway complaint.

HITAVARTA,
Jan. 24th, 1904.

26. The *Hitavarta* [Calcutta] of the 24th January says that there are many places in Bengal in which new roads are wanted and old ones require immediate repair. The fund supplied for the purpose from the proceeds of the Road and Public Work cesses is not small. Yet for want of roads, the public are so inconvenienced as not to be able to move about from place to place without the greatest difficulty in both the rainy and dry seasons of the year. It is a pity that they cannot get the comfort for which they annually pay such a large sum of money in the shape of Road and Public Works cesses.

The Road and Public Works cesses and roads in the mufassal.

PRATIVASI,
Jan. 26th, 1904.

27. A correspondent of the *Prativasi* [Calcutta] of the 26th January says that the abolition of the night mixed trains on the Goalundo railway line has become a source of great inconvenience and trouble to passengers. Owing to it the mail trains on the line become literally packed with passengers. A large number of passenger steamers arrive at Goalundo at night. How can one train accommodate all their passengers? Is there no limit to the patience of railway passengers? A train runs from Damukdia to Calcutta at night, and it may be said that passengers can avail themselves of this train by getting down at Poradaha. But Poradaha is not a short distance from Goalundo and, besides this, people greatly dislike the idea of changing trains. Passengers for those stations south of Poradaha at which the mail train does not stop are, however, obliged to get down at Poradaha, which has a rest-house of very short dimensions, and open on two sides.

A railway complaint.

MAHIMA,
Jan. 29th, 1904.

28. The *Mahima* [Calcutta] of the 29th January publishes the following complaints relating to the Howrah-Amta and Howrah Sheakhala Light Railways:—

Railway complaints.

(1) The rate of fare is $4\frac{1}{2}$ pies per mile, a rate higher than what prevails on any other Indian railway. A petition was, some time ago, sent to the Lieutenant-Governor in the matter.

(2) The carriages are overcrowded with passengers. Eight or sometimes even 12 passengers are packed in a compartment which should not carry more than 6.

(3) Recent changes in the timing of trains have become the source of great inconvenience. The 10-20 o'clock train seldom reaches the Telkalghat station in proper time. This causes great inconvenience to such passengers as serve in offices in Calcutta. There should be a train which would reach the Telkalghat station at 10-10 A.M.

(4) In most of the stations on the lines in question there are no waiting-rooms for females.

HITAVADI,
Jan. 29th, 1904.

29. The *Hitavadi* [Calcutta] of the 29th January publishes the following from correspondents:—

Railway complaints.

(1) The third-class carriages in train No. 7 leaving Tarakeswar on Saturday at 5-58 P.M. (Calcutta time) and arriving at Magra at 10-24 P.M. contain no lights. This causes great inconvenience to the large number of passengers consisting of office employes, students, and others. The Bengal Provincial Railway authorities should remove this inconvenience.

(2) A daily passenger complains that on the 9th January last, owing to a great rush of passengers for the train which leaves Howrah at 4-40 P.M., there were from 15 to 20 passengers in each compartment of the third-class carriages. He was not allowed to travel by the intermediate class, and the ticket-checker spoke insultingly. The train left the station and he was left behind.

(3) A booking-clerk on the Bengal-Duars Railway refused to issue tickets to a poor hillman who had come to the railway station (name not given)

with his family and children, and abused him in such language that the poor man began to weep and left the booking-office. He was compelled to remain in the *busti* for the whole day. Such insolence on the part of booking-clerks should not be tolerated.

(4) While coming to Khulna from Ranaghat a few days ago, a passenger was unduly delayed. The train arrived at Khulna at noon. Such unaccountable delay causes great inconvenience to all classes of passengers, especially to office employes, students, and litigants. The attention of the railway authorities is drawn to the matter.

(5) On the 18th November last, Johuri Miah sent 140 bags of Naini Tal potatoes by goods train from Kalka station on the Umballa-Kalka Railway to Howrah. The railway receipt number was 93033. At the time of taking delivery at the Howrah station ten bags of potatoes were missing, of which the price was Rs. 100, and the railway freight Rs. 25. Two complaints were made in writing to the Goods Superintendent, but the goods have not yet been recovered. The "owner's risk note" has probably absolved the railway from all responsibility. The railway freight of Rs. 25 for the lost goods at least should be refunded. If merchants continue to suffer loss in this manner and no redress be forthcoming, all business will ere long be stopped.

(6) On the 23rd January last, Babu Sisir Kumar Datta, student of the 2nd-year class, Presidency College, had to escort some friends and relatives to the Sealdah station. He was compelled to pay six annas to the station coolies for the luggage he had with him, to give a few pice to the police constable standing near the booking-office for the purchase of tickets, and then Rs. 3 was demanded as fare for the luggage, although its actual weight could not have exceeded one maund and a-half. Is there no remedy for these oppressions at the Sealdah station?

(h)—General.

30. Referring to the dismemberment question, the *Barisal Hitaishi* [Barisal] of the 22nd January writes as follows:—

BARISAL HITAIISHI,
Jan. 22nd, 1904.

The proposed transfer.

Never before was there a proposal of so revolutionary a character. The sedition and other laws do not concern or affect the rustic inhabitants of villages. But Mr. Risley's proposal has had the rare merit of rousing even the most illiterate raiyat against it. Terror and consternation prevail throughout the country. But Government does not yet seem prepared to admit the force and the gravity of the agitation, else it would have done something to allay the popular ferment. English officials consider themselves secure in the thought that the Indians have no strength to support their agitations by action. But they ought to know that "security is mortal's chiefest enemy."

There is an artifice by which the people can be satisfied, and that is, to hold out hopes to them. The late Queen's memorable Proclamation brought peace in the dark days of the Sepoy Mutiny. But where is that Proclamation now? Its provisions are trampled under foot by Viceroy's. Lord Ripon gave us Self-Government, but Lord Curzon has deprived us of the privilege without the least scruple. So long the knowledge of the Government's proneness to break promises was confined to educated Indians alone. But Lord Curzon and his minister have spread this knowledge among the illiterate also. An instance of rare political far-sightedness!

The officials have been preserving a "golden silence" as to their real intention in making the revolutionary proposal. But their main object appears to be to separate and scatter the Bengalis. Englishmen think that Bengalis are a constant cause of trouble to officials in India, always disturbing their equanimity as they do by the use of cutting words. God knows whether the proposed transfer will produce the desired effect. It may be that in the company of Bengalis the Assamese will gradually become as troublesome as the former are. After the proposed transfer has been effected, Government will, on some pretext, interfere with the permanent settlement of land in the transferred districts, just as it has done in Sylhet.

31. The *Hitavarta* [Calcutta] of the 24th January is sorry that the Government intends to impose a new tax upon the pilgrims visiting the temple at Puri. It is well known to the Government that the Puri pilgrims, who are mostly beggars, cannot afford

HITAVARTA,
Jan. 24th, 1904.

The proposed pilgrim-tax at Puri

to pay the lodging-house tax which is realized by the *Pandas*. There is no knowing to what hardship the poor pilgrims will be subjected if another tax is imposed upon them. It will not be right for the Government to impose a pilgrim tax.

SUHRID,
Jan. 24th, 1904.

32. The *Su'rid* [Noakhali] of the 24th January writes that even tender boys and girls seem to understand the mischievous effects of the proposed territorial redistribution. Asalata

Gupta, a girl of 8, has written a poem consisting of eleven stanzas, bewailing the mournful effects of the proposed measure. The refrain of the poem is as follows:—

"Assam, Assam that is not my country."

DACCA GAZETTE,
Feb. 1st, 1904.

33. After giving the proceedings of the Landowners' Meeting held in the Northbrook Hall in Dacca town, the *Dacca Gazette* [Dacca] of the 1st February makes the

following observations in its English columns under the heading "What have we learnt?":—

The success of the meetings recently held in the various parts of the country in connection with the transfer proposal, has surpassed most sanguine expectations of the people. We doubt if the annals of Dacca could show gatherings equalling them in their representative character, in the perfect unanimity reigning among their members, in the depth and earnestness of their feelings, in the sincerity of their expressions, in self-sacrifice and in a calm determination to cling to their object and fight, by all constitutional means, for its accomplishment to the bitter end. The readiness and spontaneity with which delegates and landholders, rich and poor, residing in the near and distant parts of the district, have forsaken the comforts and calm of their rural life and courted all the inconveniences of a sojourn at Dacca, could not fail to strike every one as a new and powerful re-wakening of national life. Before this, we were unconscious of the vast reserve of forces existing dormant in the village communities. The proposal of the India Government has suddenly, like a magician's wand, called into life and vigour what had hitherto appeared to all superficial observers like an inert mass, and has called into play forms of activity and methods of agitation undreamt of before in this quiet district. The utter apathy of Dacca in abstract political questions of the day has been, of late, a standing reproach to her and been regretted by none more than by her more advanced sons. It is the unexpected that always happens in the political, as in the ordinary-day, life of a nation; and the stimulus to political activity, which appeared to be sadly wanting within, has, as fate would have it, come from without from the least expected quarter, viz., the Indian Secretariat. A few more similar epoch-making notifications, and we shall be able to out-distance the most active centres of political life in other parts of India.

The grand and almost stupefying success of these gatherings, although, we confess, it has come as a surprise to most of us, is but the logical sequence of unwise attempts to introduce retrograde innovations among old, civilized, and highly cultured communities. It is the living embodiment and expression of the intensity of dread and repugnance with which the revolutionary proposals of the Government are regarded. It is, on the other hand, a gratifying sign of a new life arising among an ancient people hitherto reposing serenely in conservatism and self-complacency. We have been able to demonstrate to the world that seeds of English education could fall on no better soil than our district; for practical wisdom and tenacity of purpose, the most distinguishing characteristics of Englishmen, are also among the most prominent traits of the people inhabiting this part of the country and have been displayed to the greatest advantage on the present occasion. While delighting in the memories of our past glories, we have yet not been slow to assimilate Western methods of political activity. The smooth and orderly manner in which the proceedings of these meetings have been conducted; the calm and dispassionate manner in which such a question has been approached; the facts and figures by which the arguments of the speakers have been supported, the mass of statistics that has been digested and brought to the aid of the agitation; the convincing way in which the various aspects of the question have been dealt with;—all these point to a thorough and elaborate study of the question, not by this prominent leader or that, but by the people as a whole.

Such an amount of pain and toil are never taken by people over a matter which they regard in the light of an academical discussion. They show two things—firstly, that the proposal has stirred the feelings of the people to their profoundest depth; secondly, that the people of East Bengal, specially of Dacca, are not exactly the sort of people to be harnessed with the Assamese. They have shown that they are not inferior to the people of the most advanced parts of India in their power of organization, in their grasp of details, in their broad and comprehensive view of difficult and complicated problems, and above all, in their strong resolve to fight to the end the constitutional battle they have begun. Will not non-regulation Assam find Dacca too fiery and impetuous for the slow pace at which her own wheels of government are moving? Let the Government of Lord Curzon find an answer.

34. The same paper contains telegraphic accounts of protest meetings held at 12 places in East Bengal.

Protest meetings.

DACCA GAZETTE.
Feb. 1st, 1904.

35. The same paper contains detailed accounts of the mass meetings of protest held at Mymensingh and Comilla towns on the 17th January last.

Protest meetings.

DACCA GAZETTE.

36. The *Charu Mihir* [Mymensingh] of the 26th January writes as follows:—

Lord Curzon's ensuing visit to Mymensingh.

Lord Curzon is coming to Mymensingh. Since the establishment of British rule in India no Viceroy has set his foot in the town. Why then has the thought of visiting it suddenly occurred to Lord Curzon's mind? It must be a rare good fortune for the Mymensingh people. But a sense of fear is stealing into their minds in this connection. It is doubted whether Lord Curzon would ever have thought of visiting Mymensingh, if they had not opposed Mr. Risley's proposal. They cannot therefore think that His Excellency is going to do them a great favour. If Lord Curzon thinks that by dint of his eloquence, diplomacy, and political sagacity he will be able to satisfy them and calm the popular anxiety, he is sadly mistaken. A grand reception will be arranged for His Excellency in Mymensingh, but on every house-door in the town, he will see the following words written in tears:—"Ocean of mercy, the worthy representative of the Emperor of India, do not strike a severe blow on the hearts of loyal subjects." Hindus, in their *mandirs*, and Musalmans in their *masjids*, are offering prayers to the Almighty to be saved from the impending calamity. No Viceroy ever came to Mymensingh, and most probably no Viceroy after Lord Curzon will ever come to it. So that, if the proposed transfer is effected, His Excellency's visit to it will be associated with a day of severe calamity to its people, and future generations will only recall his name with curses. One of the grounds on which Mr. Risley has tried to support his proposal is a desire to ameliorate the condition of Assam. Every Bengali, rich or poor, is ready to purchase the unity and integrity of his mother-country with whatever he possesses. We pray Lord Curzon to give us words of reassurance before he leaves Calcutta.

CHARU MIHIR,
Jan. 26th, 1904.

The following is given in bold type:—"The generous-minded Lord Curzon, the sincere friend of National Unity, is coming to this town. People of Mymensingh, make haste to place before him your deep and unanimous objection."

37. The *Sri Sri Vishnu Priya-o-Ananda Bazar Patrika* [Calcutta] of the

The proposed dismemberment of Bengal.

27th January cannot understand why, in replying to Dr. Mukharji's interpellations, Government refused to give a flat contradiction to the rumour

published in the *Amrita Bazar Patrika* about the transfer of the Backergunge, Faridpur, Jessore, and Khulna districts and of the greater portion of the Rajshahi Division to Assam. It also fails to understand why Government should decline to lay the official expression of opinion on the subject of the proposed transfer before the public. This refusal to publish the papers may be construed into a disinclination on the part of Government to grant the wishes of the people even in the smallest matters and into an indifference on its part to their sorest anguish—things which, though they may be evidences of Government's power, must be pronounced unworthy of any civilised Government.

SRI SRI VISHNU
PRIYA-O-
ANANDA BAZAR
PATRIKA,
Jan. 27th, 1904.

Let us presume that those papers contain many opinions in favour of the people and grant that their publication will increase the present clamour. But what has Government to lose by it? For, if it can find it in its heart to shut its ears to the reasonable and wailing prayer that has been already made by Dacca, Mymensingh, and Chittagong, it can also very well shut its ears to any prayer in future, however loud or reasonable.

As for the people, they too have nothing to gain by the publication. It is easy, it is popularly said, to awake a sleeping man, but no effort can rouse one who only pretends to be asleep. If the arguments already brought forward by the people have failed to convince Government, there is no hope that it will be convinced by any further arguments that they may advance. We do not know what is in the mind of Government. Our only trust now is in Lord Curzon's compassion.

MURSHIDABAD
HITAISHI,
Jan. 27th, 1904.

38. The *Murshidabad Hitaishi* [Murshidabad] of the 27th January writes as follows:—

The rumoured abolition of the Lalbagh subdivision of the Murshidabad district.

It is rumoured that the authorities have decided upon the abolition of the Lalbagh subdivision of the Murshidabad district on the ground of its

nearness to the Sadar, with which it is being connected by rail. There can be no objection to this. But a subdivision should be established in the north-eastern part of the district.

SANJIVANI,
Jan. 28th, 1904.

39. The *Sanjivani* [Calcutta] of the 28th January publishes the opinions given by the High Court and Sir Henry Cotton, Chief Commissioner of Assam, respectively, on the transfer question.

The transfer question.

40. The same paper publishes accounts of protest meetings held at the following places:—

SANJIVANI,

Protest meetings.

Dacca District.

Dhamgar, Narayanganj	January 21st.
Sonakanda, Madanganj	January 24th.
Kalakopa, Dacca	...	...
Nandalband, Narayanganj	...	...
Dogachi, Vikrampur	...	...
Panchrukhi, Narayanganj	January 25th.
Nawabganj, Dacca	...	...
Azizpur station, Dacca	...	...
Dacca town (Northbrook Hall)	January 26th.
Raipura, Narayanganj	...	...
Dherisapmara, Narayanganj	...	...
Konda, Dacca	January 27th.
Paschimdi, Dacca	...	...
Shubhadya, Dacca	...	...
Dacca town (Imperial Seminary Hall)	...	...

Mymensingh District.

Sankrail, Mymensingh	...	...	January 21st.
Kolabadha, Jamalpur	...	...
Mymensingh town (Surja Kanta Hall)	...	...	January 24th.
Ditto (Town Hall)	...	...
Basail, Tangail	...	...	January 26th.
Syampur, Jamalpur	...	...
Muktagachha	...	...	January 27th.
Uttarial, Tangail	...	...

Chittagong Division.

Patiya	...	...	January 21st.
Chakrasala, Patiya	...	...	January 23rd.
Haidarabad, Comilla	...	...	January 26th.
Madhapura, do.	...	...	January 27th.
Rahtampur	...	...	January 25th.
Pandugart, Comilla	...	...	January 27th.
Mikliganj, Baura	...	...

41. Referring to the protest agitation, the same paper writes as follows:—

SANJIVANI,
Jan. 28th, 1904.

The proposed transfer.

O Lord Curzon! O Sir Andrew Fraser! Pray do not harass the people any more in this manner. They have, with unshaken confidence, placed all their hopes in you. Do not shake this spirit of reliance, do not take away from them their Bengali name, do not separate and drive them away from Bengal, do not lay the axe at the root of their education and civilisation, do not break or relax their social ties, do not place them in subjection to an arbitrary government, do not have them endangered by means of judicial vagaries, do not ruin trade and commerce, do not let oppression increase, do not block the paths of their advancement in all directions, do not drive them from the bright and radiant land of Bengal into the dark and dire cave of Assam. Do you not see that hundreds of thousands of people are, in plaintive voice and with eyes uplifted towards heaven, praying to the Supreme Lord of All, the Preserver of the Universe? Fallen as we are, do not give an impetus to our descent. Remember that severe suffering for even many hundreds of years cannot take away from a people the faculty of distinguishing between happiness and misery.

42. The *Samay* [Calcutta] of the 29th January cites three cases of alleged murder, in three different districts, in each of which the Sessions Judge passed the sentence of death upon the accused. All the cases came on

The helpless position of the District Sessions Judges.

appeal before the High Court and in each case the accused person was acquitted, and the Judges passed severe strictures on the conduct of the police. The paper then makes the following observations:—

SAMAY,
Jan. 29th, 1904.

All that we see around us has produced a profound impression on our mind. Let the reader call to mind the famous Pennel case of Noakhali, the conduct of Mr. Roe, the District Magistrate, and what happened to Mr. Lee, the Sessions Judge of Rajshahi. What do these cases teach us? The District Magistrate and his associates are all in all in the district and are the arbiters of the fates of Sessions Judges. How then can the police be checked in their wrong-doing? The Sessions Judges are naturally unwilling to mar their prospects by exposing themselves to all sorts of unseen and mysterious forces, especially as they saw how miserably their brother officers fared.

The unwillingness of Government to publish the report of the Police Commission will have the effect of increasing the oppressions of the police. The fact is that the reform of the police cannot but put unwelcome restraints upon many persons, and thereby endanger the prestige of many officials, who are the relatives and friends of the authorities. How, under the circumstances, can the poor Sessions Judges alone be made responsible for everything?

43. In an article headed "Government's policy of 'divide and rule,'" the *Hitavadi* [Calcutta] of the 29th January observes as follows:—

"Government's policy of 'divide and rule.'"

It is greatly to be regretted that Government is nowadays adopting the policy of "divide and rule" in various matters. Far more regrettable is the fact that this unjust policy should receive such undue favour during the administration of a statesman of Lord Curzon's firmness. The secret of good administration consists in giving equal rights to all classes without distinction of race or colour. It does not require any argument to convince any one of the truism that undue preference shown to one class of His Majesty's subjects to the exclusion of another must give rise to heart-burning among the latter, and that discontent in the Empire, and envy and jealousy among the people must inevitably follow. Can it be that a wise and far-sighted politician like Lord Curzon is unable to understand all this? What then must be the motive of Government in following this policy of division?

HITAVADI,
Jan. 29th, 1904.

Lately the Hon'ble Mr. Gokhale, during the discussion on the Official Secrets Act Amendment Bill in the Supreme Legislative Council, said that Government felt the necessity of amending the Act when it found that the substance of certain secret circulars issued by itself, sanctioning a preferential treatment of a particular community, had appeared in newspapers. Lord Curzon has contradicted this statement, and we have no desire to question

the truth of His Excellency's remarks, nor do we propose to discuss how far his utterances may be regarded as diplomatic. But the discrepancy between his previous statement regarding the appointment of Eurasians to Government service and what was afterwards done in practice has greatly pained us. The Viceroy can easily understand what the people must think if there is such discrepancy between the profession and the practice of a ruler. In his speeches in the Madras Presidency, His Excellency did not hesitate to characterise the utterances in native newspapers as false when, for the first time, reference was made in these papers to the issue of private circulars or orders relating to the appointment of Eurasians in Government offices. He declared that the statements were entirely groundless and said—"This is a news to me." But what happened afterwards showed that the newspapers had told the truth. One or two papers went so far as to publish the circulars *in extenso*, and Lord Curzon remained silent over the matter. If after this the Indian people hesitate to place His Excellency on the throne of Yudhisthira (the incarnation of righteousness), will they be held guilty of a heinous crime? In this twentieth century, is it possible in a country like India to attempt to pass off brass for gold?

The truth is that the authorities committed a grave blunder when they issued private orders. The order which is not meant for any particular individual, and which would be acted upon in all offices, can never remain a secret. If the showing of partiality is held to be a shameful act, the best thing to do would be to refrain from it altogether. Even a boy can see that the real object, even though it may be concealed, becomes known when it is carried out in practice. Hitherto this depotism was being practised in secret, the authorities not daring to publicly follow such an objectionable policy. But recently the Bengal Government cast to the winds even all outward decency. Several valuable appointments in the Bengal Secretariat have been reserved exclusively for Eurasians. We are, no doubt, pleased to see that in this matter the Lieutenant-Governor has felt no scruple or hesitation, but we have been mortified to notice such partiality in the Government of the country.

We are ready to admit that under certain circumstances, members of a less advanced community may be granted special privileges, and that considerations of public prudence and expediency may necessitate the appointment in any public office of persons belonging to different persuasions and classes to prevent the publication of official secrets and other mischiefs arising out of a possible combination among members of the same community. But we do not understand why certain appointments should be reserved exclusively for Eurasians. Is not this arrangement a gross injustice to the Hindus and Musalmans? Is this a policy worthy of the civilized British Government? When our Mahammadan brethren ask for some special concessions in their behalf on the ground that they are a less advanced community than the Hindus, Government gravely tells them that they must improve their educational status, and that Government is bound to act upon the principle of equality. What becomes of this theory of equality when the Eurasians are concerned? Perhaps Lord Curzon will be offended if we say that partiality for their kith and kin has led Government to forsake the path of duty. But in no other way can we account for this injustice. In many other matters Government has shown its love of the principle of "divide and rule." By laying down such mischievous principles as "Assam for the Assamese" and "Bihar for the Biharees," Government has created bitter jealousy between the people of different provinces. The same principle is clearly visible at the bottom of the proposed dismemberment of Bengal. We warn Government that this sowing of discord among the people can never be for the good of either the rulers or the ruled. We humbly entreat Government to try to realize its mistake. It is not yet too late for the purpose.

44. The same paper writes as follows:—

The transfer question.

The impartial critic must admit that a proposal which cannot be supported by arguments such as would silence an adversary, should be altogether abandoned. The people of this country will not be satisfied with any worthless arguments that Government may put forward. They will never support an arrangement which cannot fail to destroy the existing unity among the Bengalis, impair their vigour, cause an estrangement among dear friends and relations who have lived in amity for generations past, and above all, lower them by their contact with a backward

people. They must loudly protest against such a proposal. It is a happy circumstance that the *Pioneer* and *Englishman* and other Anglo-Indian newspapers are echoing the sentiments of the people. The Viceroy proposes to see everything with his own eyes. It is to be hoped that at the conclusion of his visit to the districts concerned, he will discover his own mistake and abandon the proposal which is as unnecessary as it is mischievous. His Excellency will then earn the unstinted gratitude of the people of Bengal.

45. The same paper writes that on the 16th January last, the Civil Hospital Assistant of the Bhowanipur Sambhunath Pandit Hospital found an indoor patient suffering from liver abscess sitting on his bed at 5-30 P.M., and apparently doing well after the operation which

Complaint against Mrs. Sinha, the Matron of the Sambhunath Pandit Hospital, Bhowanipur.

he had undergone. Returning to the hospital at about 8 P.M., the Assistant found the patient suffering from dyspnoea and pulseless. From enquiry he came to learn that the patient had fallen down from his bed and there had been bleeding from the operation wound. The sweeper raised the patient and put him on the bed, and informed the nurse of his condition. The nurse came and saw the patient and then sent information to the matron, who neglected to send for the doctor at once. The result was that the patient died at 9 P.M. Such neglect on the part of those who are in charge of charitable dispensaries, and in whose hands the lives of the patients lie, can never be overlooked. The authorities should enquire into the matter, and take such steps as may be considered necessary.

HITAVADI,
Jan. 29th, 1904.

46. The *Bangavasi* [Calcutta] of the 30th January writes as follows under the heading "We are in fear":—

The proposed transfer.

God knows what fate awaits East Bengal. There is no end of agitation. Protests are being made from every town and every village. There is no lack of arguments showing why a dismemberment of Bengal is not desired. Will the proposed partition be effected in spite of all this? The proposal has alarmed not only the people of East Bengal, but also the influential inhabitants of Calcutta. What will Government do? We are greatly exercised in our minds over this question. The little hints which we have already received are frightening. That Government has a great mind to bring about the change is clearly shown by the Lieutenant-Governor's letter to the Government of India and Sir Denzil Ibbetson's replies to Dr. Ashutosh Mukharji's interpellations in the Supreme Legislative Council. Considering the intensity of the opposition created by the proposal, ought not all previous official opinions on the subject be published? It is, however, quite a different matter if Government is determined to make the transfer, and in that case it should plainly speak out its mind. Why does Government refuse to take the opinion of the High Court? It is this which causes fear. How many people are there in the country who can equal the Judges of the High Court in ability and intelligence? It is rumoured that the widespread opposition has enraged Lord Curzon. But is that possible? Why should the gifted Viceroy get angry? Even the immovable mountains will move if the ruler, who has promised twelve reforms to the country, loses his patience. However that may be, let the agitation go on. Come what may, let there be a struggle.

BANGAVASI,
Jan. 30th, 1904.

47. The same paper publishes accounts of protest meetings held at twenty different places.

Protest meetings.

48. The *Navayug* [Calcutta] of the 30th January rejoices to learn that Babu Sarada Charan Mitra has been appointed a Judge of the High Court. Lord Curzon and Sir Francis Maclean have earned the gratitude of the Indians by this appreciation of sterling worth in a native gentleman.

The appointment of Babu Sarada Charan Mitra as a Judge of the High Court.

BANGAVASI,

NAVA YUG,
Jan. 30th, 1904.

49. Referring to the appointment of a successor to Mr. Abdur Rahim, Police Magistrate of Calcutta, who is about to retire from service, the same paper recommends that a Hindu gentleman should be appointed to the

NAVA YUG.

The vacancy in the Police Court, Calcutta.

post, inasmuch as the number of Hindu inhabitants in Calcutta is much greater than that of those belonging to other classes. Since there are three Magistrates, it is not too much to expect that one of them at least should be a

Hindu. One of the three likely persons, viz., Mr. N. N. Ghose, Mr. N. Haldar, and Kumar Girindra Krishna, may be appointed.

ANUSANDHAN,
Jan. 30th, 1904.

50. The *Anusandhan* [Calcutta] of the 30th January has the following in English:—

The partition problem.

Everywhere we go, we hear the partition of Bengal is discussed; everybody we meet, speaks of the partition of Bengal; every society we mix, criticises the question of partition; every message we mark, bears on the proposal of partition; every newspaper we notice, deals with the dismemberment of Bengal. There has risen a cry of protest from one end of Bengal to the other. An alarming agitation is now reigning over the entire population of the country. More than once we have prayed to our benevolent rulers to consider calmly the critical question and to make allowance for the emotions of the people. And we notice with pleasure that our Government has wisely sustained a pause before striking the final blow. Our views in respect of this problem we have already expressed denouncing the partition, but at the same time we have cherished for an amalgamation. Let Assam be united with Bengal, and let Bengal, Bihar, Orissa—all be united together as one powerful presidency under one Governor like Bombay or Madras. There is no risk to unite; but no practical good can be brought about by this proposed partition. And if the desired amalgamation in regard to law and language be introduced throughout the provinces, we can assure that showers of blessing will be poured forth upon the Government from the farthest point of Bengal, Behar, Orissa and Assam. It would be a great boon to the country, as well as to our literature, if Bengali be adopted as the Court language in this widespread province. We cherish our views as such, and beseech our rulers in the name of the Government which is always anxious to look for the welfare of the subject.

RANGALAY,
Jan. 30th, 1904.

51. The *Rangalay* [Calcutta] of the 31st January writes that there is a rumour that Mr. N. Haldar, Barrister-at-law, will be appointed as Magistrate of the Calcutta Police Court in the place of Mr. Abdur Rahim, who is about to retire. But it would be a better arrangement if Mr. N. Ghose, who has had experience of Police Court work as Honorary Magistrate, were appointed to the vacant post. Mr. Ghose is unrivalled in point of ability, erudition and all other qualities that go to make a truly estimable character. Sir Andrew Fraser, it is to be hoped, will consider the suggestion.

RANGALAY.

52. The same paper is inclined to think that the rumour that the Nawab of Dacca proposes to assemble twenty thousands of his raiyats and make them declare that the people of East Bengal are willing to be placed under the Assam Government, must have, like all rumours, some foundation in fact. It is, however, confident that this trick, however clever, will not impose upon a ruler of Lord Curzon's astuteness.

The publication of the hostile opinion of the High Court and of Sir Henry Cotton by the *Bengalee* newspaper would seem to have placed Government in a rather awkward position. The reply given by Sir Denzil Ibbetson to Dr. Mukharji's interpellations do not seem to be perfectly in accordance with the real facts. From these things we are of opinion that it is sore trouble and torment that have driven Government to frame a law against the publication of official secrets.

NIHAR,
Feb. 2nd, 1904.

53. The *Nihar* [Contai] of the 2nd February thanks the Government for appointing Babu Sarada Charan Mitra a Judge of the Calcutta High Court, in the place of Dr. Guru Das Banerji, retired.

Babu Sarada Charan Mitra.

III—LEGISLATION.

BANGAVASI,
Jan. 30th, 1904.

54. The *Bangavasi* [Calcutta] of the 30th January says that the Indians, the Anglo-Indians, and many people in England, too, are unanimously saying that the Indian Official Secrets Bill would have the effect of suppressing the independence of the Indian Press. Lord Curzon, however, raised his voice

The Official Secrets Act Amendment Bill.

in the Legislative Council to remove this fear on the part of the public. But it is rumoured that the Select Committee to which the Bill was referred has made very little changes in it. Many people fear that an extension of the provisions of the Official Secrets Act to the civil administration of the country would be productive of much evil. It would place the native editors at the mercy of fickle-minded officials, and put a stop to all sorts of political agitation in the country. Lord Curzon is well aware of the importance and utility of newspapers, and many of his talented countrymen even go so far as to admit that they render great help to the government of a country. Why then are His Excellency and his ministers so eager to carry on the civil administration of India in secret? There is yet time to make the necessary changes in the Bill, and it is hoped that the Viceroy will not turn a deaf ear to the plaintive cries of the people.

55. The *Rangalay* [Calcutta] of the 31st January has the following:—

RANGALAY,
Jan. 31st, 1904.

The Universities Bill.

We are visited from time to time by vague yearnings for the past glory of India—yearnings that resemble the fitful music of a melancholy pipe—and haunted by remembrances of its past splendour—remembrances that quiver on our mental retina like a transient flash of summer lightning. The English Government, which is able to see and hear everything, sees and hears this. It hears the shaking of the chains of its slaves. Hence its endeavour to reform the system of education. Hence the Universities Bill. The object of the proposed measure is to naturalise English culture in India. The English Government has come to see after this long time that the presence of ten really educated men in Indian society is better than the presence of ten thousand half-educated men. Ten genuine Brahmins can keep crores of people together, whereas the existence of a crore of merely lettered people in the community only serves to separate ten crores of people each from every other. Such is the present condition of our society. Many are educated, but none is a social creature. The ancient society has gone to pieces. The aim of the English Government is to gather the broken fragments, to pound them, and to mould them into a new society by a due admixture of English culture. This society will be neither Hindu nor Musalman. It will be a society of feringhees, a society of Europeanised blacks. Nothing in this perishable world is permanent. Everything in it will pass away. But the English, in their pride of power, have wished to leave a permanent record of their glory in the Indian heart. May the English prosper!

We have no right to consider whether this attempt of the English will be good or bad for us. The question is whether we should now choose to become learned, or to remain dunces, after this new turn of affairs. We have probably no time to decide this question. We learnt English for our belly's sake, and English education has not filled our belly. English education means expenditure of money, and we have no money. To become learned according to Lord Curzon's ideas will mean immense expenditure, and we are penniless. The question is whether, if this costliness of education makes us decide in favour of ignorance, we shall be on the way to becoming men. If such be the case, blessed are we and thanked be Lord Curzon.

V.—PROSPECTS OF THE CROPS AND CONDITIONS OF THE PEOPLE.

56. A correspondent of the *Ratnakar* [Asansol] of the 30th January speaks of the prevalence of severe distress in Binuria, Kamarparha, Gopalnagar, Chella, Dorenda, and other villages near Ramnagar, in the Burdwan district. Poor people are flying to Assam and Mauritius. There was complete failure of crops last year.

RATNAKAR,
Jan. 30th, 1904.

Distress in some villages in the Burdwan district.

URIYA PAPERS.

57. The *Utkaldipika* [Cuttack] of the 23rd January states that the temperature in Cuttack is rising day after day.

UTKALDIPIKA,
Jan. 23rd, 1904.

58. The Narsingpur correspondent of the same paper reports that the people of that killa are in great dread of a man-eater that is committing depredations in villages in that State without being in any way checked by the *shikaris*.

UTKALDIPIKA.

A man-eater in the Narsingpur State.

UTKALDIPKA.
Jan. 23rd, 1904.

59. The same paper is glad to find that some of the nobles of Orissa have subscribed towards a fund started in Calcutta for the support and maintenance of a girls' school, named Shyambazar Raj Rajeswari Pathsala, but is sorry to note that the Hindu Girls' School at Cuttack is decaying for want of adequate support.

UTKALDIPKA.

60. The same paper gives a short account of the quarrel between Japan and Russia, and observes that Russia should conciliate Japan by conceding to her her just demands. The writer hopes that peace proposals will prevail in the end.

UTKALDIPKA.

61. The same paper approves of the technical scholarships which the Government of India have established in the interests of technical education in India, and hopes that a sufficient number of qualified candidates will be found in India willing to avail of the same.

NARAYAN CHANDRA BHATTACHARYYA,

Bengali Translator.

BENGALI TRANSLATOR'S OFFICE,

The 6th February, 1904.